

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-245 (cancelled)

246. (currently amended) A chemically modified nucleic acid construct, said construct comprising ~~a~~ modified nucleotides, ~~a~~ nucleotide analogs, or a combination of the foregoing, wherein ~~said at least one~~ modified nucleotide or ~~at least one~~ nucleotide analog comprises ~~a non-nucleic acid entity, a fusogenic protein and at least one modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a ligand, which~~ construct when present in a cell is used as a template for the synthesis of a nucleic acid product having biological activity, said product selected from the group consisting of antisense RNA, antisense DNA, sense RNA, ribozymes, messenger RNA, and a combination of any of the foregoing; ~~wherein said non-nucleic acid entity confers nuclease resistance, cell-targeting, cellular localization or nuclear localization, or a combination of the foregoing.~~

247. (previously presented) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct or a portion thereof is linear, circular or branched.

248. (previously presented) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct or a portion thereof is single-stranded, double-stranded, partially double-stranded or triple-stranded.

249. (previously presented) The construct of claim 248, wherein said construct is in double-stranded form.

250 (previously presented) The construct of claim 248, having at least one terminus, said terminus comprising a polynucleotide tail.

251. (previously presented) The construct of claim 250, wherein said polynucleotide tail is hybridized to a complementary polynucleotide sequence.

252. (previously presented) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct comprises DNA, RNA, a DNA-RNA hybrid, a DNA-RNA chimera or a combination of the foregoing.

Claims 253-254 (canceled)

255. (previously presented) The construct of claim 246, wherein at least one of said nucleotide analog or analogs have been modified on the backbone or side chain or both.

Claims 256-263 (canceled)

264. (currently amended) The construct of claim ~~257~~246, wherein said ligand or ligands are attached to a single stranded segment, a double stranded segment, a single stranded construct tail, or a sequence complementary to a construct tail, or a combination of the foregoing.

265. (currently amended) The construct of claim ~~257~~246, wherein said ligand or ligands are macromolecules, small molecules, or a combination of both.

266. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct is neutral.

267. (previously presented) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct comprises unmodified nucleotides and one or more nucleotide analogs.

Claims 268-270 (canceled)

271. (new) A chemically modified double-stranded nucleic acid construct, wherein solely one strand of said construct comprises a modified nucleotide, a nucleotide

analog, or a combination of the foregoing, wherein said modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a non-nucleic acid entity, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity is selected from the group consisting of a polypeptide, a protein, a saccharide, a fatty acid, and a fatty acid ester, and a combination of the foregoing, which construct when present in a cell is used as a template for the synthesis of a nucleic acid product having biological activity, said product selected from the group consisting of antisense RNA, antisense DNA, sense RNA, ribozymes, messenger RNA, and a combination of any of the foregoing, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity confers cell targeting.

272. (new) The chemically modified construct of claim 271, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity further confers cellular localization, nuclear localization or a combination of the foregoing.

273. (new) A chemically modified nucleic acid construct, said construct comprising a modified nucleotide, a nucleotide analog, or a combination of the foregoing, wherein said modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a non-nucleic acid entity, which construct when present in a cell is used as a template for the synthesis of a nucleic acid product having biological activity, said product selected from the group consisting of antisense RNA, antisense DNA, sense RNA, ribozymes, messenger RNA, and a combination of any of the foregoing, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity confers nuclease resistance, cell targeting, cellular localization or nuclear localization, or a combination of the foregoing, wherein said construct further comprises at least two strands, wherein a first strand is a circular strand and the second strand (a) has at least one terminus, said terminus comprising a polynucleotide tail and (b) comprises two segments, wherein one segment is complementary to at least a portion of the first strand and the second segment lacks said complementarity and comprises said polynucleotide tail, wherein said polynucleotide tail is hybridized to a complementary polynucleotide sequence, wherein said complementary nucleic acid sequence comprises a non-nucleic acid entity.

274. (new) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct further comprises a modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprising a non-nucleic acid entity comprising a nuclear localization signal.